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STATE PASS TO NONALIGNED MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE

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STATE DEPT FOR WHA/CCA

EO 12958 DECL: 06/05/2016
TAGS PGOV, ECON, PREL, SOCI, CU
SUBJECT: CARTAS DE CUBA: EARLY SUMMER EDITION
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Classified By: COM Michael Parmly; Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (SBU) This edition of "Cartas" features the following items:

-- Paras 2-4 Medical Malpractice -- 5-8 Baseball, Music and Racism -- 9-11 China Syndrome -- 12-19 Diplomatic Corps Reflections -- 20-22
Bracing for the NAM

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

12. (U) NEWS: USINT is always looking for human interest stories and other news that shatters the myth of Cuban medical prowess, which has been
--Dateline 31 May: Jamaican Dr. Albert Lue has publicly denounced Cuban medical incompetency in handling Jamaican patients who traveled to Cuba
--Dateline 1 June: 14,000 Bolivian doctors are on strike to protest the 600 Cuban doctors who have been shipped into the country, with no conce

13. (U) In a recent appearance on Miami Cable TV station 41's "A Mano Limpia" interview show, Cuban doctor and former Director of Family Medicine
XXXXXXXXXXXX

Baseball, Music and Racism:

15. (C) COM and several USINT colleagues went to the Industriales-Santiago (World Series equivalent) baseball game at Latinoamericano stadium in
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an intentional walk, the fans would yell, "Pitch, mommy, pitch!" That then evolved into "Pitch, guajira, pitch!" Then came allusions to the pit

16. (C) Cubans told COM that the catcalls, chants and aggressive behavior are not new. They did say that there has been a marked increase in su

17. (C) The following morning, COM and Mrs. Parmly strolled over to the Callejon de Hamel, a tourist trap in downtown Havana set up a few years

18. (C) Comment: These two snapshots were a window into a part of Cuban life with a dynamic all its own. They underline the existence of at lea

China Syndrome:

19. (C) A couple of weeks ago, there was a concert at Amadeo Roldan theater that featured a Chinese conductor as guest of the National Symphony

110. (C) After the concert, several officials got up to speak. Leading the Cuban cohort was Abel Prieto, Minister of Culture, who had the usual

111. (C) Chinese Appliances: Cubans who visit USINT tell us frequently that new, supposedly energy-saving appliances made in China are of very

Diplomatic Corps Reflections:

112. (C) Spanish Ambassador Alonso (May 26) described the fight within the "nomenclatura" for the soul of the future Cuban regime. Fidel, with
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book, is "present for now," but not for the future. According to Alonso, there is a deep split within the government circles that can be summar

113. (C) So, Alonso continued, the regime comes back to its choice: Does it put what money it has in repairing the rail (and bus) network, or i

114. (C) The regime sounds confident in its public statements. Fidel especially sounds boisterous and bombastic. Just below him, Alonso conclu

115. (C) Corruption in Cuba is a fairly unique phenomenon, Alonso said. Fidel does not fear much the street accusing him of having stashes of c

116. (C) Alonso said Cuban corruption is remarkable for its universality. Corruption is needed by all to survive. Alonso said that in most Lati

117. (C) Czech Charge Vit Korselt (May 30) said he had just come back from Prague, where he had arranged for the replacement of his DCM, who was
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the next regime would be able to function with over half the population put outside the law. (Comment: That is not what Paya proposed. Rather,

118. (C) Korselt also commented on corruption in Cuba. He is convinced there are numerous multi-millionaires on the island. He has seen too man

119. (C) The UK DCM said last week that the presence of lunatic fringe MP George Galloway in Havana put the British Embassy in an embarrassing s

BRACING FOR THE NAM:

120. (C) As we get closer to September, when Cuba hosts the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, we will be ever more interested in factoids that demor

121. (C) It will be hard for us to witness the NAM first hand, but our protecting power, the Swiss Embassy, is applying to the current NAM Chair

122. (C) We plan to feature more NAM-related items in our next installment; stay tuned.

PARMLY